

Letter To the Editor

Dear Editor,

Recently, the programming department of WNTC circulated a questionnaire to a cross-section of students of Clarkson and PSTC. The purpose of this questionnaire was to find out what type of programs students preferred, the time segments when they listened to the radio, suggestions for improvements, etc. Some of the results are published elsewhere in this paper and will be of great value in planning next year's programming schedule. I sincerely wish to thank those who took time to fill them out.

This year has been somewhat of a "milestone" for WNTC. For, just a couple of weeks ago, WNTC, in cooperation with KSLU of St. Lawrence University, formed the North Country Network. Through the facilities of this network, WNTC will be able to offer its listeners many fine new programs as well as wire-service news and sports coverage. But don't get the idea that this network is a one-way proposition. Not at all! WNTC has many excellent programs which we are proud to send over the network and which KSLU is happy to be able to present to their listeners.

Many of the returned questionnaires were critical of our operations. We appreciate this criticism, especially that of a constructive nature. One complaint was that of not being able to receive the station. We want to do something about this situation. However, we can't raise our power because of strict FCC regulations. The only answer seems to be the use of more transmitters. But transmitters cost money and since WNTC operates almost entirely from advertising revenue, this does not leave too much, after regular expenses, for such major improvements as transmitters and the necessary lines to connect them with the station.

The people who work at the station do a commendable job in view of the deplorable conditions under which we have to operate. Our studios are located in the Crane Barn in back of Snell Hall. The term "barn" is used somewhat loosely since most barns are not quite as cold in the winter as is WNTC and most barns also have running water - a "luxury" which WNTC does not have. Perhaps the barn was a good location when WNTC was in its infancy around 1949 and '50. However it just is not adequate for our expanded operations. WNTC has acquired some excellent equipment and could well be a showplace for both campuses. But in our present location, by the time visitors have found the barn, tripped over the kindergarten equipment stored on the first floor, climbed the rickety stairs and squeaked across the floors of our un-soundproofed little studios, there is not much left to say except "Well, we're going to move - - someday." With conditions like these, is there any wonder why our engineers, control room operators, announcers, day managers, etc., sometimes become discouraged? It is a credit to the staff members that the station runs as efficiently and smoothly as it does!

Perhaps no single joint operation of both colleges employs so many people, is so far-reaching, is so interesting and educational as WNTC and yet receives so little aid - financial and otherwise!

Again, I wish to thank those who filled in the questionnaires and, with the continued cooperation of the student body, faculty and local residents, we of WNTC will endeavor to maintain, and raise, our standards of campus radio operation.

Sincerely,

Jerry Hackett

Director of Programming